

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 23, 2002 (Paper No. 7). Claims 1 to 24 are in the application, of which independent Claims 1, 3, 11, 23 and 24 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in the Office Action that Claim 11 recites allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicant has not so amended Claim 11, since it is Applicant's firm belief that Claim 11, which has been amended to be independent, is allowable over the cited references. In addition, Applicant believes that the remaining claims are allowable over the cited references.

By the Office Action, Claims 1 to 10 and 12 to 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). More particularly, Claims 1 to 5, 7 and 15 to 24 have been rejected over U.S. Patent 6,131,040 (Knuutila) in view of U.S. Patent 5,596,723 (Romohr), Claim 6 has been rejected over Knuutila in view of Romohr and U.S. Patent 5,870,767 (Kraft), Claims 8, 9, 10 and 12 have been rejected over Knuutila in view of Romohr and U.S. Patent 6,128,263 (Fuji), Claims 13 to 14 have been rejected over Knuutila in view of Romohr in view of U.S. Patent 6,272,127 (Golden).

The present invention concerns automatically sending data for output of an image of a user guide that informs a user how to configure an interface card that is installable in a device with image output capabilities. More particularly, the invention concerns an interface card that automatically sends such data.

Interface cards are often installed in devices with image output capabilities so as to interface those devices to networks or other devices. For example, a network interface card is installed in a printer so as to interface the printer to a network. Likewise, a DVD interface card or CD-ROM interface card is installed in a computer system so as to interface the computer system to a DVD drive or a CD-ROM drive, thereby allowing the computer system to output images stored on DVD disks and CD-ROMs. As yet a further example, a display interface card such as a graphics accelerator card is installed in a computer so as to provide an improved interface to a display. Other examples of such interface cards exist.

When interface cards are installed by a manufacturer in a device, the manufacturer can easily check to see if the card is installed and configured properly. However, when an end user installs an interface card, the end user must make sure that the card is installed and configured properly. Problems are often encountered in this process, particularly by end users who are not familiar with the installation procedures. In addition, if the card does not work properly once it is installed, the user has little way of knowing if the problem is with the configuration of the card or the connection between the card and the device.

Turning to Claim 1, an interface card for a device with image output capabilities comprises a connector for connecting to the device, a controller for sending data for output of an image of a quick-start guide from the interface card to the device through the connector, wherein the data is sent once without error after the card is installed in the device, wherein the quick-start guide identifies installation and configuration instructions.

It is conceded in the Office Action that Knuutila does not teach outputting an image of a quick-start guide, let alone outputting a quick-start guide that identifies installation and configuration instructions. The remaining references are not seen to teach or to suggest at least these features.

Romohr is also not seen to teach or suggest this feature. More particularly, Romohr is not seen to teach or to suggest the claimed quick-start guide, or outputting such a quick start guide that identifies installation and configuration instructions.

The Office Action cites the NIC frame type in Fig. 4K and col. 9, lines 45 to 67 of Romohr. As described beginning at col. 14, line 44 of Romohr, Fig. 4K is displayed when the user selects the "Edit Network Parameters" option from the "Network Setup Program" screen shown in Fig. 4C. Using the screen shown in Fig. 4K a user can set network parameters. A screen in which a user can view and edit network parameters is not seen to be the same as outputting an image of a quick start guide that identifies installation and configuration instructions.

At col. 9, lines 45 to 67, Romohr is seen to describe a network setup program that when executed loads a link support layer to allow software in a client computer to talk to a network interface card and reads a configuration file that contains frame types for the interface card installed in the interface card. A setup program that sets up a network interface card is not seen to be the same as outputting an image of a quick start guide that identifies installation and configuration instructions.

The remaining references have been carefully reviewed and are not seen to remedy the deficiencies of the above-discussed art.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicant submits that Claims 3, 11, 23 and 24 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

The remaining claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,


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